

Message Text

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44

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 AEC-11 ACDA-19 CIAE-00 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 RSC-01 SCI-06 FEAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 PA-04 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 OMB-01

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2131

INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 8068

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IN, PK

SUBJECT: INDO-PAKISTAN RELATIONS: SWARAN SINGH LETTER TO AZIZ
AHMED

1. FOLLOWING UP SWARAN SINGH'S IMMEDIATE COMMENTS AFTER PM
GHUTTO'S LETTER OF JUNE 6 TO MRS. GANDHI WAS RECEIVED IN NEW
DELHI (NEW DELHI 7618), THE INDIAN FOREIGN MINISTER HAS APPARENTLY
SENT A FORMAL LETTER TO THE PAKISTAN FOREIGN MINISTER, AZIZ
AHMED OBJECTING TO BHUTTO'S NATIONAL ASSEMBLY REMARKS ON JUNE 7.
WE DO NOT HAVE THE TEXT OF THE LETTER NOR HAVE WE YET BEEN ABLE
TO CHECK WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTRY ON THE SUBSTANCE OF THE LETTER
AS REPORTED IN THE PRESS. THE KEY POINTS MADE, AS REPORTED BY
INDIAN WIRE SERVICES AND PUBLISHED IN THE DELHI PRESS JUNE 18,
ARE AS FOLLOWS:

A. SOME OF BHUTTO'S REMARKS WERE INCONSISTENT WITH THE SIMLA
AGREEMENT AND CONSTITUTED GROSS INTERFERENCE IN INDIAN INTERNAL
AFFAIRS. BHUTTO'S REFERENCES TO INDIANS STARVING WHILE INDIAN
ARMED FORCES WERE SUPPRESSING DEMONSTRATORS WERE FOUND PARTICULARLY
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OBJECTIONABLE.

B. BHUTTO'S CHARGE THAT INDIA WAS ACQUIRING NUCLEAR WEAPONS AT VERY GREAT COST, VERY GRAVE RISK, AND VERY GREAT SACRIFICE TO INTIMIDATE AND BLACKMAIL PAKISTAN, AND HIS CHARACTERIZATION OF INDIA AS AN "IMPLACABLE ENEMY OF PAKISTAN", DESPITE MRS. GANDHI'S ASSURANCES TO BHUTTO IN HER LETTER THAT THERE WERE NO POLITICAL OR FOREIGN IMPLICATIONS IN THE INDIAN NUCLEAR TEST, CAUSED INDIA "PAIN AND ANGUISH", AS DID SIMILAR CHARGES BY PAKISTAN'S REPRESENTATIVES IN INTERNATIONAL FORUMS AND IN COMMENTS TO THE INTERNATIONAL PRESS.

C. SUCH ACTIONS WERE BOUND TO REVERSE THE HISTORICAL TREND IN THE SUBCONTINENT TOWARD NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A DURABLE PEACE. INDIA AND PAKISTAN SHOULD CONTINUE JOINT STEPS TO PREVENT AN ATMOSPHERE OF CONFRONTATION AND TO RESTORE NORMALCY AND DURABLE PEACE ON THE SUBCONTINENT.

D. INDIA HAS ALREADY TRIED TO DO ITS VERY BEST AND IS PREPARED TO DO EVEN MORE TO TRY TO ALLAY ANY GENUINE MISGIVINGS PAKISTAN MAY HAVE ABOUT THE PEACEFUL NATURE OF THE INDIAN NUCLEAR ENERGY PROGRAMME.

2. COMMENT: THESE EXCHANGES ARE NOT GOING TO TAKE INDO-PAKISTANI RELATIONS ANYWHERE BUT DOWN UNLESS ONE SIDE OR THE OTHER MAKES SOME MOVE FOR A SERIOUS NON-POLEMIC POLITICAL DIALOGUE. ONLY THEN WILL TECHNICAL DISCUSSIONS BE POSSIBLE. AT THIS POINT, WE THINK THAT SOME INITIATIVE BY EITHER BHUTTO OR MRS. GANCHI TO SEEK A MEETING OF ESPECIAL EMISSARIES, AND ULTIMATELY PERHAPS BETWEEN THEMSELVES TO DISCUSS WHATEVER THE INDIANS MAY HAVE IN MIND BY SWARAN SINGH'S PURPORTED REMARK (1SD ABOVE), WHICH SOUNDS LIKE WHAT ASHOK CHIB TOLD US THREE WEEKS AGO (NEW DELHI 7013, WOULD BE EXTREMELY HELPFUL. WE DON'T KNOW WHETHER ANYONE EITHER HERE OR IN ISLAMABAD IS THINKING IN THOSE TERMS. THE INDIANS MAY BELIEVE THAT, SINCE THE PAKISTANIS CANCELED THE JUNE 10 TALKS, THE NEXT MOVE IS UP TO THEM; THE PAKISTANIS MAY BELIEVE THAT, SINCE IT WAS THE INDIAN TEST WHICH PUT A NEW COMPLEXION ON INDO-PAK DISCUSSIONS, IT'S UP TO INDIA TO MAKE THE FIRST MOVE. AT SOME POINT SOME ENCOURAGEMENT FROM OUTSIDE MIGHT BE HELPFUL. I WOULD LIKE TO DISCUSS THIS ON MY RETURN HOME.

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Message Attributes

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